

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF BILL CLERK PEGGY FIELDS

#### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding service of the Bill Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, Peggy Fields. For more than three decades, Peggy has devoted her career to the people's work here in the People's House. In doing so, she has earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle and ensured the Congress could deliver for the Country.

A daughter of Huntsville, Alabama, Peggy began her career in public service by joining the office of former Congressman Bud Cramer when he was the District Attorney of Madison County, Alabama. After Congressman Cramer was elected to the House in 1990, she came with him to Washington so that she could continue to serve her beloved hometown community. For eighteen years, she was an integral member of his team as Grants and Special Projects Coordinator, an essential link between the Congress and her constituents.

In 2008, Peggy brought her talents, relentless work ethic and dedication to public service to the Office of the Clerk of the House. As an Assistant Bill Clerk, she helped process the many bills, amendments and cosponsor forms filed in the House: essential work to keep Congress functioning. Peggy embodies the extraordinary meticulousness, teamwork and professionalism that this essential responsibility demands. Her excellence was on full display during her exemplary performance as Bill Clerk on duty during the opening day of the 114th Congress, when she managed the introduction of 161 bills with remarkable diligence and efficiency.

In July 2021, Peggy's hard work and valuable contributions were recognized when she was promoted to serve as Bill Clerk of the House. In this role, she has demonstrated outstanding leadership of her team: bringing energy, camaraderie and humor to the long hours and late nights to ensure the business of the House could get done. Her mastery of the mechanics of the legislative process, extensive institutional knowledge and refusal to shy away from a challenge were especially valuable last year—helping facilitate an historically productive legislative session despite the many challenges posed by the lingering pandemic.

Peggy's work has been central to the health of our Democracy and to the benefit of our Country: ensuring that the business of legislating is both efficient and accessible for the American people. She takes immense pride in always placing the duties of her office above all else, never allowing partisanship or politics to infiltrate the sacred trust bestowed upon the Office of the Clerk.

While she will be missed, Congress and the Country are grateful to Peggy Fields for her

longtime and patriotic service. When she returns to her beloved Huntsville after she graduates with her Doctorate of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary this May, she will continue her leadership by helping local churches serve their congregations and their communities. On behalf of the House, we wish her all the best as she prepares for a deeply deserved retirement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 89.

### WOMEN OF THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS MOVEMENT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and the Budget, it is my pleasure to join Congresswoman LIZZIE FLETCHER and the Pro-Choice Caucus for this Special Order with my colleagues, to commemorate the women who have been prominent figures in achieving reproductive rights.

One of my greatest joys as a member of Congress is the opportunity to work on behalf of women to ensure that every voice is heard when discussing equality and women's rights.

I was inspired by many of the women who led the movement for women's equality and reproductive rights. When I was a young woman, their passion and purpose were instilled within me, and their indomitable spirit continues to light the way.

Before I share a few thoughts about two of the women who led the movement and were role models for me, I must emphasize how vital their lessons and their work continue to be.

This is a critical time to discuss women's reproductive rights because they are under attack in many states. Women in my home state of Texas have been stripped of their reproductive rights due to the revolting abortion ban that was enacted last September.

Restrictions on abortion disproportionately harm low-income women and women of color. Low-income individuals and people of color face a range of worse health outcomes than higher income individuals and white people.

These worse outcomes are the result of higher barriers to accessing quality health care, higher rates of stress, poorer living and working conditions, and, for people of color, racial discrimination.

People of color and low-income individuals experience the highest rates of unintended pregnancy, partially because of barriers to accessing quality family planning services and contraception, lack of insurance coverage, and, for racial minorities, discrimination in health care.

Because of this, low-income people and people of color have higher rates of abortion, as abortion rates mirror rates of unintended pregnancy.

But the erosion of our rights in Texas and elsewhere makes clear how important the movement was in the 1970s. We owe a great debt to the women who paved the way for the reproductive rights that many women in this country enjoy today.

Shirley Anita Chisholm was a trailblazer throughout her career. In 1968, Shirley Chisholm ran for Congress in New York's 12th district. With her victory, she became the first African American woman ever elected to the United States House of Representatives.

Congresswoman Chisholm was a pioneer in the fight for reproductive rights. In a one-minute speech to the House, Congresswoman Chisholm explained that "by forcing a young girl to have an unwanted child, we are assigning her to society's trash heap. She will be cut off from avenues of opportunity."

In her 1970 book *Unbought and Unbossed*, Chisholm argued that "access to legal abortion was an issue of economic and racial injustice, as poor African-American and Hispanic women were the most likely to be victims of unsafe "back alley" abortions while wealthy white women were much more likely to receive abortions from licensed doctors, even when the procedure was still illegal."

Her efforts and advocacy led her to be named the honorary co-president of the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws in 1969. Chisholm also co-founded the National Organization for Women, an organization that I hold dear to my heart.

I believe all women must be recognized for their achievements, but today I would like to pay special tribute to the strength and resilience of my hero and mentor, Barbara Jordan.

She was resolute and fearless in her pursuit of justice and equality.

Barbara Jordan was a prominent public figure, civil rights advocate, woman's rights advocate, and leading presence in Democratic Party politics for four decades.

Barbara Jordan was a ground-breaking "national icon": the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate (1966); the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Congress (1972); and the first African American woman to deliver the keynote address at a Democratic National Convention (1976).

I was very fortunate to have known Congresswoman Jordan, and I had the honor and pleasure of thanking her for laying a path for me to follow when I decided to seek a career in public service.

Barbara Jordan grew up in Houston's Fifth Ward, graduated from Wheatley High School, and attended Texas Southern University.

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